

CAMPAIGN AGAINST
carf
RACISM & FASCISM

No 22 September/October 1994 80p

*Fun-da-mental
on political music*

*racism and
anti-racism in*
**popular
culture**

Xenophobes United: World Cup review • Media lies

plus special feature on women and the Catholic Right

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Cover photo of Fun-da-mental by
Matt Bright



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EDITORIAL

This issue of *CARF* looks at aspects of racism and anti-racism in sport and music. We may not recognise these as traditional sites of struggle, but, if we want to create an anti-racist popular culture, these are areas in which we have to engage.

Very often the sports and music establishments – the pundits, opinion-makers and trend-setters – are part of the problem. For example, ITV football commentator, Jimmy Greaves, systematically denies the importance of racism in the game by reducing it to a matter of inter-personal banter. He is at one end of a narrow spectrum that embraces chauvinism, Eurocentrism and downright bigotry (see p4). We can only hope that the fans, who have already done so much to tackle racism on the terraces, will extend their campaigns to influence the coverage of sport on television and in the national press.

But what is happening in music? For one thing, the heyday of 'One World' racial harmony pop festivals and even Rock Against Racism spectacles is over. Such events may attract huge numbers of youth to the music but they do not, any longer, inspire people towards political protest. They are safe, and the music industry has incorporated them. For another, anti-racism on the music scene is being defined more and more by Asian and African-Caribbean musicians at the forefront of developing new forms of music. The aggressive and passionate style of such music and the immediacy of its content are things that the establishment finds problematic (witness the banning of Fun-da-mental's Dogtribe video on racist attacks).

In this issue of *CARF*, we talk to Fun-da-mental about how they see anti-racism. And what emerges clearly from the interview is that, because such black bands do not have a sleek, pre-packaged anti-racist politics, but speak to the immediate concerns of the community, they automatically become a part of a subversive, anti-establishment counter-culture. And herein is the lesson for us anti-racists. ■

FRANCE'S POLICE STATE

In *CARF* No 20, we warned that France's hardline interior minister, Charles Pasqua, had incorporated into state policy the twin planks of Le Penism: its crusade against Islam and its stated goal of zero immigration. In August, the results of those policies were seen in the mobilisation of Paris' entire police force to carry out mass identity checks in immigrant areas, the drafting in of police reinforcements from the provinces to guard railway stations and public buildings, and the internment of 25 Arabs in a disused army barracks at Folembay in northern France.

The ostensible reason for the suspension of civil liberties was the killing of three gendarmes and two consular officials in Algeria. No one should be taken in by Pasqua's argument that the suspension of democratic rights in France can be justified in the name of the fight against fundamentalism in Algeria. With an eye to next year's presidential elections, Pasqua is courting popularity – and the frightening thing is that he is succeeding. Far from being an anti-terrorist measure, the colonial-style policing of immigrant areas, which includes the setting up of roadblocks and the deployment of Special Branch and the secret services to carry out identity checks (30,000 so far), is all part of Pasqua's immigration offensive. Those so far detained have been accused, not of terrorist offences but, for the most part, immigration irregularities.

For this offensive is also a signal to sections of the judiciary that the rearguard battle they have fought to protect civil rights from the increasingly unconstitutional actions of the interior minister, is to be circumvented. In July, Pasqua put the judiciary on notice that he would not tolerate any interference from them in his immigration policies and that he would personally intervene in cases in which he believed the judges were wrong.

Far from being the land of 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity', France increasingly resembles a police state designed and run by the Front National. ■

The trials of the Deol family

A campaign of racist harassment against an Asian family store on a predominantly white council estate in Stoke-on-Trent has resulted in the Deol brothers facing serious charges including murder. CARF reports.

'It is my own humble view that in the interests of justice this case should not be heard in the county of Stafford.' These were the words of a stipendiary magistrate, referring to the case of the Deol brothers and their co-defendants. One of the Deol brothers has been charged with murder. His older brother and three co-defendants also face serious charges. Supporters of the Deol family agree that the climate of hatred and racism towards the Deols locally is such that they should not be tried in Staffordshire at all.

In fact, if there was any such thing as justice at all, it would not be the Deol family facing trial, but the white youths whose campaign of racist harassment against their post office and general store on the Abbey Hulton council estate in Stoke-on-Trent sparked the incident leading to the death of Kevin Copeland on 3 July 1993.

Mob attack

The Deol family had suffered sporadic racial harassment on the Abbey Hulton estate ever since they bought a shop there in 1989. But, even though another Asian family had been forced off the estate, the Deol family thought that they could cope. But they reckoned

without the groundswell of racist support the youths had on the estate. When, the night after all the store windows were smashed, they saw the youths hanging round outside the store, they took action to protect themselves. Immediately, a 60-strong mob materialised, hurling abuse. As the Deols attempted to leave the scene in a van, the driver knocked down and killed Kevin Copeland. He has now been charged with murder. He denies the charge, saying it was an accident. None of the 60 white youths, who then surrounded and laid siege to the Deols' sister and wife in the post office, have been charged.

It is these factors that led the stipendiary magistrate quoted earlier, as well as local councillors and local MP Mark Fisher, to appeal to judge McKinnon to transfer the trial to Birmingham. But, despite the fact that the Deol family and their co-defendants have to be escorted to the court in police cars or a riot van each time they appear, the judge has ruled out a transfer.

Climate of fear

According to the local community relations council, since the siege and the death of Copeland, attacks on the Asian community have escalated. An Asian

cab firm has been advised not to go into the area. Children from local schools have been threatened. One child walking home from school was racially taunted by a group of juveniles who shouted 'You Pakis, you killed my mate'.

When members of the Deol family attempted to return to the shop in August to collect some belongings, they had to be driven out of the area, their heads covered by blankets, after a large crowd gathered chanting 'Burn the Paki bastards'. White friends of the Deols have been attacked and the lives of their former employees made a misery.

Now the Deol family's post office stands empty. A managing company which attempted to re-open the shop quickly gave up when they were threatened. Whatever the outcome of the trial on 4 October, the Deol family have paid a terrible price for attempting to run a shop on a predominantly white council estate. In November last year, the store was repossessed by the bank and the Deols declared bankrupt.

Surely the Deols have suffered enough. ■

For further information contact Sheera on 021-551-4679.

BNP exploits King's Cross killing

Within hours of the killing of Richard Everitt after an incident with a group of Asian youth, the police were telling newspapers that the murder was probably racially motivated, leading to lurid headlines in the national press suggesting that Richard was 'knifed for being white'.

By the time the police withdrew the suggestion of racial motivation, a day later, it was too late. The damage had been done. The BNP had already laid a wreath at the spot where Richard died, claiming him as the 'victim of a multi-racial experiment.' Camden Racial Equality Council reports that there were as many attacks on Asians in the two days following the murder as in the whole of the previous month.

Needless to say, the press have not been interested in the local background

to Richard's killing. In fact, the BNP has been targeting south Camden for recruitment in recent months. Attacks on the black community have escalated, in an atmosphere of police indifference.

The response of the local Asian community has been positive. The Bengali Workers Action Group and the Drummond Street Youth Association have launched the Camden Monitoring Project. They are urging anti-racists to work in the white community to ensure that the BNP's propaganda does not spread and that south Camden does not become another Millwall. And they are asking why the police do not show the same willingness to see racial motivation when a black youth is killed. ■

Camden Monitoring Project 071 388 7313

BRITAIN'S NIGHTMARE

THE TORY GOVERNMENT came to power promising to halt the explosion of violent crime which has engulfed Britain. Fourteen years on, recorded crime is at its highest ever level, and experts are predicting a continued increase of crimes of violence. Incidents which would once have been the preserve of crime reporters throughout the country are barely mentioned on the inside pages of our newspapers. This month we feature just a few cases of violent crime that most newspapers chose to ignore...

Lancashire whites suffer spate of race attacks

IN ONE PLACE at least, it has been shown that these men were officially admitted that white bull, too, are the victims of equally manly and manly victims. In Halifax, West Yorkshire, police have acknowledged that most men attack have been by 2-3 men each.

Asian gangs target whites

Racial revenge attacks culminate in murder at King's Cross. Julian Kossloff reports.

What is frightening is that the press is reiterating the BNP's rights for whites message

Whatever the motive for the tragic killing of the 15-year-old white youth, Richard Everitt, in Kings Cross, north London, on 13 August, the police handling of the murder investigation, and the subsequent press coverage, have undoubtedly increased the climate of racism locally.



Xenophobes United!

Did you enjoy the World Cup while being sickened by the racist and arrogant commentary? Phil Vasili looks back at a great tournament marred by a nauseating sense of Euro-superiority.

During one of Nigeria's games in the World Cup, Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson constantly referred to a player called 'Iguana'. He was making the all too common mistake of mispronunciation – the defender's name is Eguavoen. Don Howe, former England coach, also commenting for British TV, consistently mistook US defender Balboa for a Spanish city. But then these are football pros doing an unfamiliar job, so such slips are forgivable, aren't they? No, I don't think they are. British football has always been ethnically diverse, as has organised football throughout the world. After all, it was a game spread by trade and imperialism.

European superiority complex

The Football Association in Lancaster Gate is the guardian of 'the product' in this country. Just as today's officials trumpet the Anglo-Saxon origins of the modern game, the officials of yesteryear imperiously refused to involve themselves in its organisation at world level until the 1950s, following a path of 'splendid isolation'.

It is an attitude echoed today in the crass pronouncements of commentators such as BBC's John Motson or ITV's Alan Parry. After falling about the studio because four of the South Korean team were called Choi and 'they all look the same', Parry bored on and on about their size. He, all five feet eight inches of him, was really on form for his own exclusive club, Xenophobes United!



IMPORTANT FOOTBALL TIP:



Cartoons courtesy of FSA

Seven out of the eight quarter finalists, we were smugly told, were European. Eastern European teams now count – as the poor relations whom we have helped to gain access into the exclusive western club. For, according to sage Kevin Keegan, it was all because of the fall of the Berlin wall and new-found contact with Western freedoms and footballing traditions.

The final wasn't won by the 'imperial', 'majestic' Italians but by Brazil, the team that synthesises beauty, art and success, samba and strategy, grace and organisation, a marriage of European science with Latin American spontaneity. Thus, Brazilian success was not a defeat for Europe but a celebration of its most useful and viable attributes.

The Nigerians, heavens above, were at least as tall as the quintessentially European team, Germany. And they were good – skilful, powerful and quick-thinking. In the second round they were a minute and a half away

from putting out Italy. Skilful indeed, acknowledged Don Howe, but, he wondered aloud, could they run for a whole 90 minutes? Well, I don't know, Don, but you could ask the managers of the 19 European clubs to whom the majority of the Nigerian team are signed.

Cultural/historical ignorance

The absurd language used to categorise and describe the way in which the 'children of international football' (Nigeria), other African, Asian and predominantly black teams (such as Saudi Arabia) played, paid scant respect to history and cultural traditions. For Trevor Brooking, the idea that there are two Koreas – one North and one South – was too hard. He fused them into one country when drawing an analogy between the North's success in 1966 over Italy with the South's second-half demolition of Germany. Different leagues create their own styles: yes, John Motson, Russian goalkeeper Dimitri Kharin can 'deal with corners like that' (that drop into his hands) 'having played all season in the F A Carling Premiership' (what an indictment of the technical accuracy of Premier forwards)! This brings us back to the point of absurdity: ethnocentric concepts which are used as tools of analysis and comparison are unfair and ignorant. Unfair because, in the style of play of any particular team, you find social and cultural values competing for predominance. Ignorant because of the arrogance – our way is best – assumed in such attitudes.



FIFA and corporate wealth

While 'our' football imperialists question the efficacy of style and strength of character of 'Johnny Darkie', they rarely question the power structure and politics of FIFA – the international body which runs football. Here you have an organisation that puts its corporate wealth before the health of players and supporters. The World Cup was played in a country that doesn't have a professional 11-a-side league and therefore a pre-existing audience of fans. Many matches were scheduled to kick off at midday in searing heat for the benefit of European TV companies. The World Cup has, incidentally, never been played on the

support of non-European federations eager to break the power and influence of the elite and see resources redistributed to the poorer nations!

Football for the fans

For me, this World Cup, while a great success in terms of the quality of football, was a setback for those interested in wresting power from the football 'barons'. There are now two contradictory forces developing. On the one side is the drive by the elite, at national, federational and world levels, to accumulate yet more wealth and power into fewer hands. (This is what the creation of the Premier League was all about.) At the European level we see Berlusconi, chairman of AC Milan, using the European champions' success to popularise his right wing pro-fascist 'Forza Italia' movement. The last Italian to use sport as an overtly political vehicle was Mussolini.

But, on the other side, football's supporters are becoming more organised and politically responsive. Fighting racism in football is just one example. But rank and file mobilisation has led to an awareness among a growing minority that to solve the game's problems we have to connect its 'narrow' concerns with those of the wider society. A victory for the signal workers would, I hope, inspire those on the terraces and those playing for a living that the Havelanges are not all powerful and can be defeated on and off the pitch! ■

In 1938, Mussolini sent a telegram to Italy's World Cup national side telling them to 'Win or die'. Berlusconi's 'Forza Italia' is named after the chant on the football terraces.

continents of Africa or Asia, where there is a history of professional football. Siting it in the US was about money, about FIFA's long relationship with Coca-Cola, about potential markets, about power through economic leverage. The president of FIFA, Joao Havelange, once described himself as 'head of one of the most powerful states on earth, football'. Ironically, he was elected with the

UNITED COLOURS OF FOOTBALL

To coincide with the start of the new football season, the CRE, the Professional Footballers' Association and the Football Supporters' Association are launching a week of action against racism.

Fans will be leafleting grounds and distributing a special fanzine at football grounds up and down the country. 'The fanzine is just one of the ways that we hope to get our message across – racism has no place in football,' says Adam Brown in the editorial of 'United Colours of Football'.



Other football supporters' groups had this to say:

'We all thought it was dead, about as fashionable as a Patrick Kagoul or a Pringle crew neck, but it's back – the monkey chant has returned.'

The Sleeping Giant, Wrexham
'Great, isn't it? 1994 and a large section of the local community, through fear of being attacked or abused, daren't go and support their local team.'

The Flashing Blade, Sheffield Utd
'If the culprits were regularly ejected from the ground, with our admission prices they should soon get the message.'

The Lion Roars, Millwall
'Even now I find it difficult to stomach the fact that John Barnes was racially abused by his own supporters.'

Through the Wind & Rain, Liverpool
'United Colours of Football' posters, stickers and other materials promoting the campaign are available from the Football Supporters' Association, PO Box 11, Liverpool L26 1XP.

WORLD CUP RACIST ATTACKS • WORLD CUP RACIST ATTACKS

Belgium

On the day of the Belgium-Morocco World Cup fixture, a 16-year-old Moroccan, who had been watching the match at a pavement cafe in Verviers, was shot by members of a far-Right group. A rubber bullet went through his right arm and punctured a lung. Another bullet entered his right knee.

In Brussels, during a football celebration in Brussels Square, a Moroccan youth received a savage beating from a group of fascists who threw beer cans at Moroccans.

Germany

A 26-year-old Moroccan student, travelling from Holland to Germany to visit relatives, was attacked by German football supporters, and suffered a broken nose and stab wounds.

Italy

Following Italy's victory over Nigeria, and the subsequent street celebrations, a young Tunisian was knifed in Bologna and a black man was beaten up in Prato, a small town near Florence.

'Britain's greatest gift to the world has been the liberal democratic tradition. This country has no history of, or tolerance or capacity for, political extremism.'

– *Melody Maker* article accusing rappers Fun-da-mental of 'hysterical absolutism'

Over the last couple of years British alternative pop music has become increasingly concerned with political issues. The Anti-Nazi League Carnival which took place earlier this year was an explicit attempt to revive the marriage of music and political activism which the Rock Against Racism movement epitomised in the seventies. But this marriage has had its problems. Throughout the eighties, the alternative music sector, covered by the papers *Melody Maker* and *New Musical Express*, was largely predicated on the superiority of guitar-based rock music over dance music. This musical opposition easily slipped into a racist opposition of 'serious' 'white' music to 'frivolous' 'black' music. The most successful band to emerge from this sector, *The Smiths*, stated this explicitly. Ironically during this period the music papers, in the main, ignored the emergence of rap as a combination of 'serious' social comment and 'frivolous' dance music. When a reader wrote to one of the music papers asking why no black acts were featured, he was told that sales figures dropped when a black star was featured on the cover.

The repoliticisation of the alternative music press over the last few years has therefore not come easily. The attempt to provide a half-decent coverage of rap has given support to acts with an explicit anti-racist stance, such as Asian/African-Caribbean rappers Fun-da-mental, while ignoring less sensational acts. Such support is itself highly provisional as the quote above indicates. Fun-da-mental, who define themselves explicitly in terms of a 'no-nonsense' anti-racist politics and a commitment to Islam, have recently been accused of extremism. Articles on Fun-da-mental in the music papers are now peppered with ridiculous diatribes on the threat of Islam, and defences of Western values. Discussion of racism and fascism then gets reduced to the level of tarring Fun-da-mental with the same brush as the BNP – both equally intolerant and extremist. CARF spoke to Aki Nawaz aka Propa-Gandhi about the politics of their music.

Fun-da-mentally

■ **CARF:** *What role can music play in the anti-racist struggle? What contribution can Fun-da-mental make?*

★ **Aki Nawaz:** We have come out from day one as an anti-racist band with a no nonsense attitude. Two years down the line, people are being a bit more accommodating to our attitude and are respecting the message more. Fun-da-mental is just a band – it's no big deal. Most of the anti-racist movements and organisations are far more important than us – they are obviously on the frontline. We have irritated the BNP and a lot of liberal minded people who talk about multi-culturalism but don't understand what it means. When we released the album we remained absolutely true. We're not interested in being successful in the 'music business', but in exposing things and telling people the way it is. Any layman on the street can say what Fun-da-mental say – we've just got a platform to say it. There are a lot of bands who say piss all and just see politics as a fashion. People say 'oh you're a political band' like it was a trend – we're not political in that sense – we are actually sincere, we want things to change. A lot of bands are political, they just don't want to go out there and say it because they're scared about record sales.

DOGTRIBE

There comes a time when enough is enough
Afro-Caribbeans, Asians together is tuff
Our defence is on attack, minds are made up
Bodies are fightin' back.
Self defence is no offence
And we're ready, ready for a collision with the opposition
It won't be a suicide mission, and one thing about me, I'm not afraid to die ji.
And after me there will always be another brother.

■ **CARF:** *The video for your single Dogtribe was banned on daytime TV after it depicted a violent racist attack. Is your message getting through?*

★ **AN:** The Dogtribe video should never have been banned – it should have been put on daytime TV purely so some young child could look at it and say 'well why has that guy just got beaten up by these idiots?' There were only three guys attacking on the video when in reality usually it's 10 or 20 beating up one guy, so it was a very responsible video. In the bigger scheme of things they are accommodating us a bit more cos they can't ignore us. There is obviously a positive element to getting banned because people go 'why are they getting banned?' It adds more substance to our argument.

■ **CARF:** *So is the message more important than the music?*

★ **AN:** Always has been. The musical platform means people take notice and take it seriously. The music in itself makes a statement – the clashes of culture, fighting. Some of the clashes are about who we've been, how we feel, how I feel as a second generation Asian and how the third generation feel. There's a lot of anger, a lot of beauty, humbleness, aggressiveness, frustration, sincerity and passion that makes the music what it is.

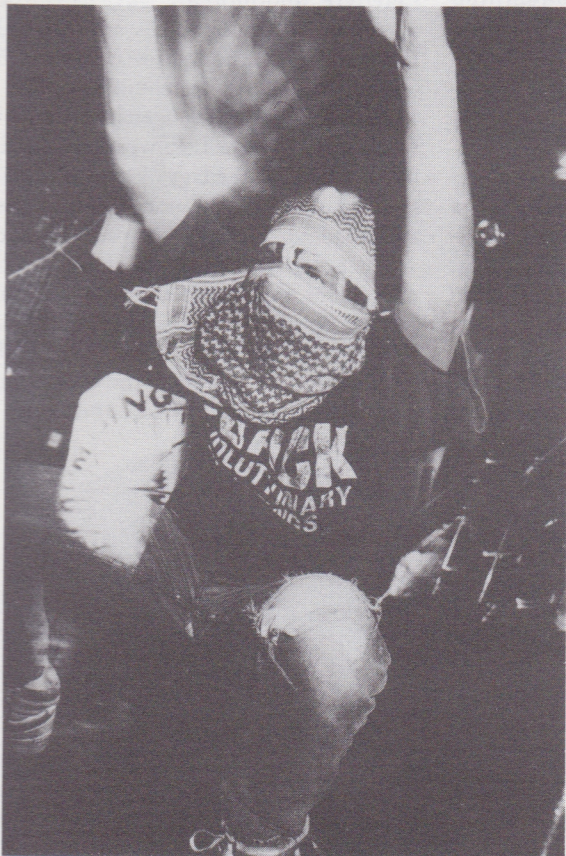
Unity album

A collaboration between various anti-racist bands, including Credit To The Nation, Fun-da-mental, Asian Dub Foundation and Transglobal Underground, has produced an album of dance, dub and rap music, in aid of the Community Music Education Project.

The project, based in London, works in youth clubs, day centres and schools, encouraging young people to create and perform their own music. Proceeds from the *Unity* album will be used to set up 'RPM' – Rap, Poetry and Music – a workshop-based course for young people, aimed at encouraging them to make conscious music with a strong anti-racist theme.

Unity is released on Totem Records. The Community Music Education Project can be contacted at 60 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3PP. Tel: (071) 490 2577.

sound



Matt Bright

■ **CARF:** *What do you think about the growth in Asian youth culture?*

★ **AN:** Because of the bhangra scene, the stigma the Asian community in England used to attach to musicians has calmed down a bit. The reason for losing that stigma isn't the right reason – the music. Some parents have seen that Apache Indian has made loads of money and drives round in Mercs – the materialism has made it acceptable and that's the wrong reason. But at the end of the day there has to be a starting point. I have tremendous respect for the Asian Dub Foundation, Hustlers HC and The Kaliphz. I think it is improving because there's never really been an Asian youth culture before. Politically, we've been too complacent, especially our parents' generation who said 'hold back'. As new generations start learning about history it creates anger and you just say 'why', and you are going to say 'why' until you know that something's being done about it. There has to be some form of payback – imperialism and colonialism is all part of racism and until that is addressed, we have to get a lot harder, especially from a black perspective – even just from a human perspective.

■ **CARF:** *Where do you stand on fundamentalism?*

★ **AN:** We're living on the edge and that's why there's a massive rise in fanaticism especially amongst Muslims who are joining organisations like the Kalifah. I'm not saying that's wrong, but it's a result of other things that are failing them, they're being led that way because no-one is doing anything about what should be done. Then you get the whiteman going 'they're all fanatics' – but he has put them in the position of having to be fanatics.

Fun-da-mental's album *Seize The Time* is released on Nation Records.

■ **CARF:** *Your music combines rap with traditional Asian sounds and radical black/anti-racist lyrics. Is this a conscious attempt to promote African-Asian unity against racism?*

★ **AN:** There should be unity between Afro-Caribbeans and Asians because the struggles are exactly the same. They should connect – one can help the other. As far as rap music is concerned, music belongs to anybody and everybody. There is a lot of rap music in Indian classical music – look at raags and the way they are recited – it can almost be seen as rap so there's a lot of connections. There's a lot of punkiness and underground elements in Indian classical music that don't get acknowledged. Music has no boundaries – it can all speak to each other. It's not a conscious thing that we put together – that's just how it feels it should be done.

NO MORE FEAR

Black to basics is my politics

And we're not pacifists,
we don't talk jive

We try to survive, no more fear,
no more shame

So ring-a-ring-a-rosey, my culture is
your enemy

It doesn't bother me so don't treat
me like a class B citizen.

I'm already on the frontline.

Silcott reconvicted

Although it would be difficult to guess from reading the tabloids, it is three years since the Court of Appeal cleared Winston Silcott of any involvement in the murder of PC Blakelock during the Broadwater Farm uprising of 1985. But as Silcott waits in prison for the chance to appeal against conviction for the murder of Anthony Smith, the media have used the July trial of the two detectives, Det Ch Supt Graham Melvin and DI Maxwell Dingle, who were charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice by fabricating the interview that led to Silcott's conviction, as an excuse to re-establish his guilt and, through him, the demonic status of black youth.

'We saw him cut up cop', screamed *Sun*. 'The 14 murder witnesses too scared to talk', said the *Daily Express*. Thus did the media gleefully welcome the reading to the court of 14 lurid and anonymous statements from witnesses allegedly too frightened of Silcott to give evidence personally. Many of these statements had been dismissed by judges as fantasies obtained by police oppression, when they had been used in the original Broadwater Farm trials.

The campaign against Silcott continued with renewed vigour after the detectives' acquittal on 26 July. The cleansed detective Melvin, basking in his victory, described Silcott to the *News of the World* as 'the most evil man I've ever met'. The 'evil man' coverage had a serious purpose. 'Winston Silcott "free in months" shock', cried the *Daily Star* on the day of the detectives' acquittal. This was clearly a reference to Silcott's High Court challenge in the Anthony Smith case. There was also 'Fury at £10,000 jail payout for Silcott' (*Daily Mail* 1 August), as broadsheet and tabloid press pondered the rampant unfairness of a 'killer' being awarded compensation for what any fool could now see was his thoroughly justified incarceration.

The demonisation of Silcott also succeeded in relegating another story from the front-page coverage it deserved. Operation Jackpot was potentially the most extensive investigation into police corruption since the 1970s. Just two officers, PC Ronald Palumbo and DC Barry Lyons, are to face charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, after the CPS said there was insufficient evidence to support charges relating to drug planting and dealing, racism and assault. ■

Christian crusaders for fascism

Far-Right parties present themselves as the guardians of Europe's Christian heritage, upholding the sanctity of family life. Are there tendencies within the Catholic church tempted by this message?

When we think of the Christian Right, we think of America – of Bible-thumping televangelists like Pat Robertson and Jimmy Swaggart. Yet figures such as this are not merely charismatic con-men, they are part of an immensely powerful Christian fundamentalist movement. Without the backing of the Christian Right, Ronald Reagan would never have made it to office. And the Christian Right has played a key intelligence and counter-insurgency role in the Third World, such as Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network's financing of contra armies in Honduras and Costa Rica.

But is there a comparable Christian fundamentalist movement in Europe? CARF has been looking at the Christian Right and examining evidence of right-wing movements, particularly within Catholicism, and of parallels between Catholic concerns on issues such as abortion and women's rights and those of the far Right. 'The irony is', says the Revd Ken Leech of the Jubilee Group, a forum for Christians concerned about the Christian Right, 'that in the US the Roman Catholic church is (except, of course, on the whole question of abortion), for the most part, left of centre. Reagan tended to regard the Roman Catholic church as subversive. But in Europe, where the Pope has been appointing increasingly conservative bishops, it is a different pattern altogether. Even so, the Roman Catholic church in Europe contains some of the most progressive elements in Christian Socialism.'

Catholicism and the far Right

It was the balance of forces in the new European parliament, and the increasingly strident proclamations of MSI and Northern League politicians in Italy on women and the family, that first led CARF to question the influence of the Christian Right. Not only is there the blatant anti-Semitism of the Northern League's Irene Pivetti (the first woman to become speaker of the Italian parliament) but into the European parliament has come a Catholic party, L'Autre Europe. Led by Philippe de Villiers, L'Autre Europe, which has the backing of the virulently anti-Communist Anglo-French businessman, Sir James Goldsmith, has promised to return women to the home and force all children to have a Catholic fundamentalist education. The Northern

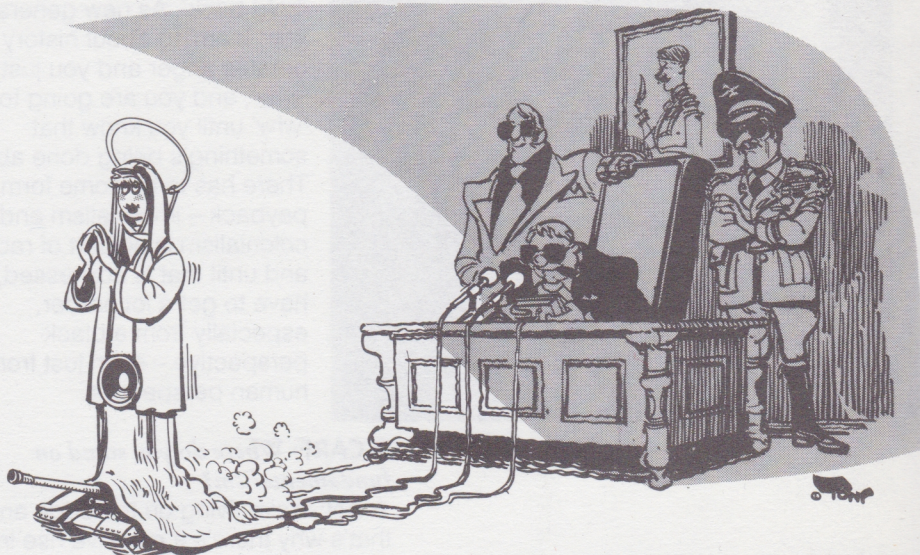
League sits in the European parliament, alongside a Protestant Reformist group from the Netherlands that refuses to allow women to stand for parliament.

Pivetti, anti-Semitism and the Lefebvre movement

The Northern League's Irene Pivetti, a former Milanese journalist, denies that anti-Semitism exists in Italy, citing Jewish racial characteristics as the cause of persecution of Jews. Pivetti's anti-Semitism undoubtedly stems from her Catholic fundamentalist beliefs. As the editor of the Catholic monthly, *Identita*, she maintained

America. Despite his excommunication, Lefebvre undoubtedly gave the FN a respectable Catholic veneer and helped Le Pen build up support amongst right-wing Catholics. And at Lefebvre's funeral in 1991, the FN acknowledged its debt to him with fulsome praise. Lefebvre had defended the most sacred heritage of western values, saving Europe from Communism, atheism and materialism, an FN spokesman said.

On Lefebvre's death, the running of the movement was taken over by the anti-Semitic German churchman, Father Franz Schmidberger. In 1983, Lefebvre had a total of 3,000 followers in the UK and had acquired a church in north London and 30



that other religions have to be considered inferior, since Catholicism 'is the only true, revealed religion'. Pivetti describes herself as an admirer of the late Archbishop Lefebvre, a right-wing French cleric, who was excommunicated in 1988 from the Catholic church, not for his support for far-Right causes, but for defying the Vatican and ordaining his own bishops. On his excommunication, 50,000 Catholics followed Lefebvre, a pro-monarchist, who repudiated the French revolution and the Reformation, into schism.

Lefebvre and the FN

Pivetti is not alone in right-wing circles in her admiration for Lefebvre. After his split with the church, Lefebvre held a special mass of 7,000 in Lille. Protected by FN stewards, Lefebvre preached anti-Semitism, and praised fascist military regimes in Latin

other mass centres. His movement is still active in the UK, as it is in France, Belgium, Norway and Germany.

The FN's Catholic base

Christian support for the FN does not stop with the Lefebvrists. A neglected aspect of the rise of the FN, monitored by the French anti-fascist group Reflexes/CRIDA, has been attempts by Le Pen to harness the support of right-wing Catholics. Crucial to the organisation of this support has been the FN MEP, Bernard Antony. Antony, active in Catholic conservative circles before joining the FN, established *Chrétienté Solidarité* (CS) and the *Centre Henri et André Charlier* in Paris to mobilise right-wing Catholics. CS members have met with the Christian Maronite leader, General Aoun, in the Lebanon, Arena in El Salvador and have connections with the

Nicaraguan contras and the US-based World Anti-Communist League (WACL). Antony edits *Présent*, which describes itself as 'a journal for developing the energies for Christ and resistance forces against totalitarianism'. According to Reflexes/CRIDA, CS was involved in the terror campaign against Scorsese's film 'The Last Temptation of Christ', which involved the burning down of a cinema where it was showing, leaving one dead.

Most scandalous, however, is the support given by prominent Catholic churchmen to a right-wing pilgrimage from Chartres to Notre Dame organised by the Charlier Centre in 1990. Just three weeks after Catholic leaders had denounced the desecration of Jewish cemeteries at Carpentras, several bishops and the cardinal responsible for doctrine within the Catholic church, wrote to the organisers blessing the pilgrimage, which at its peak attracted 5,000 people. The ceremony at Notre Dame, as reported in the satirical *Canard Enchaîné*, reads like something out of Monty Python. At Notre Dame cathedral, two scouts, surrounded by stewards carrying banners with royalist and tsarist themes, walked down the aisle, supporting a statue of the virgin Mary crushing the Kremlin. Several abbés proceeded to make anti-immigrant speeches. One abbé defended the burning of the cinema showing Scorsese's film, which had aroused Catholic fundamentalist wrath by portraying Jesus as gay.

Other mainstream Catholic societies

The connection between the far Right and the Catholic Right might be clearest today in France, but other Catholic societies, such as Opus Dei (God's Work - see box)

and its Italian equivalent Communion e Liberazione, have historically been linked to the Right. The difference between them and Lefebvre, however, is that, whereas the Lefebvre movement was in dispute with the mainstream Catholic church, both Opus Dei and Communion e Liberazione have been, and continue to be, extremely influential within it. Irish journalist Carol Coulter, in an investigation into religious cults, concluded that 'The suspicion must be that the Catholic Church has its own cult, protected up to now at the highest levels in the Church itself.' The Vatican's approval for Opus Dei (called by its opponents 'Opus Diaboli' or 'white freemasonry'), which was a key component in Franco's fascist coalition, is such that its founder, Monsignor Josémaría Escrivá, was beatified in 1992, the first step on the road to sainthood. Both Opus Dei and Communion e Liberazione are active in universities in the UK and Ireland, principally in London, Dublin, York and Cambridge.

Women, abortion and the family

But it is perhaps on the issues of abortion, women and the sanctity of family life, that the concerns of the Catholic Right and the far Right most obviously combine.

The irony is that perhaps never before have there been so many far-Right women in European parliaments. Mussolini and Pivetti might be the best-known names, but of the 93 women in the Italian parliament, 47 are members of either the Northern League, Forza Italia or the National Alliance (AN). Such women denounce feminism and claim that the Right represents the true interests of women and the family. They skilfully manipulate images of women and

motherhood in their oratory. As FN parliamentarian Marie-France Stirbois put it in an interview with Channel 4's First Sex, 'To love France is to help our own citizens first. It's like a mother. She takes care of her children first, and after she looks after those of her sister or her neighbour. I don't think it's to be racist to speak like that.'

Irene Pivetti cites Mussolini's National Organisation for Maternity and Assistance as evidence that fascism did much for women. Founded in 1925, this organisation, which drew the approval of the Catholic Church of its day (in 1929, the Pope described Mussolini as 'the man sent by Providence'), introduced special legislation on social assistance and insisted on the obligation of the state to provide for the family as part of its policies on the nation and the reproduction of children. This included restrictions on areas of work open to women, penalties for abortion, and a veto on the spread of contraception or information on it. Further to this, in 1938 a law was passed preventing Italians from marrying 'non-Aryan races'.

Pivetti is not alone in her admiration for such so-called 'family policies'. Feminist organisations in Italy, such as 'Noi Donne', are campaigning against a motion presented by senators from the FN/AN/LN on the role that should be played by the Department for Social Affairs. Under the motion, the Department would become a Ministry for the Family, its purpose 'to protect the life of each individual from conception in the mothers' womb onwards' and to 'support mothers as givers of life ... following the teaching of the Pope which as well as being absolute truth is strongly felt by citizens in their hearts'.

Right-wing women and abortion

It is not hard to see how such an army of right-wing women, purporting to speak for all women and for the sanctity of family life, speaks to orthodox Catholic Right concerns. In France, the FN has issued a 11-point programme on women, the collapse of moral standards and the crisis of the family, which includes a review of the 1975 Abortion Act. In both Italy and France, fascists have proposed legislation to pay women a wage to stay at home.

Abortion, however, is key to right-wing women and the far Right in general, as well as, of course, to the Vatican. Recently, Vatican Radio in Italy broadcast an interview with Altero Matteoli of the AN in which he called abortion 'a kind of homicide'. According to Reflexes/CRIDA's extensive research files, many of France's anti-abortion groups are run by

† OPUS DEI †

The Priestly Society of the Holy Cross and God's Work was founded in 1928 by the Aragonese priest, Monsignor Josémaría Escrivá, who wrote *El Camino* (The Way). Opponents of Opus Dei point to its extreme secrecy and describe it as a form of freemasonry, as members will not give the name of others. In 1982, Opus Dei had 70,000 members, 2 per cent of whom were priests.

During the Franco period in Spain, Opus Dei was one of the most powerful forces in the coalition and its members were promoted to key posts in Spanish universities, where they promoted a 'National Catholicism'. Maxim 905 of Escrivá's *El Camino* commends patriotic fervour and compares it with fervour for Christ. 'If these maxims change your life,

you will be a perfect imitator of Jesus Christ, and a Knight without a spot. And with Christs such as you, Spain will return to its ancient grandeur of its saints, its sages and its heroes.'

Escrivá's followers today deny that he was sympathetic to Hitler. Others point out, however, that when in June 1941 Hitler launched 'Operation Barbarossa' (the invasion of the Soviet Union), all of Opus Dei in Spain volunteered to fight in the Blue Army.

In 1992, Escrivá, despite protests, was beatified. According to the *Catholic National Reporter*: 'Opus Dei stands or falls by Escrivá. For all practical purposes he is Opus Dei. Beatify him, and Opus Dei will be solidly established in the church until Kingdom come.'

Catholic Right women linked to the FN. Trêve de Dieu, led by Claire Fontana of the Cercle Renaissance, is supported by Marie-France Stirbois and Martine Lehideux of the FN, both members of another anti-abortion group, SOS-Toutes Mères. (SOS-Little Ones, another project, argues that 'compared to abortion, Hitler was a child'.) Founded in 1988, Trêve de Dieu, supported by the Order of the Chevaliers de Notre Dame (a fundamentalist Catholic order which helped to protect the convicted French collaborator Paul Touvier during his 45 years in hiding), launched a 'truce for abortions' during the Pope's visit to Alsace. The Trêve de Dieu is linked to Rescue America and its European branch, Rescue Outreach. Its contact in the UK is Humanae Vitae House in Aberdeen, led by Father James Morrow of Rescue UK. From 1990 to today, anti-abortionists have launched 70 commando actions at abortion clinics, many of which were organised by Trêve de Dieu.

Different fundamentalisms

But, ironically, it is on the question of women and reproduction that the far

Right and the Vatican part company. For fascists, obsessed with the demographic decline of Europe and fertility rates of 'immigrants', race is a key issue. The Vatican, on the other hand, is motivated by a different sort of



David Drew

fundamentalism – a fundamentalism that allows the Pope, in instructing the Church in Africa to condemn the use of contraception, to ignore Africa's terrible immiseration and the spread of Aids. It is a fundamentalism that has

led the Vatican to reach a pact with Muslim fundamentalists to oppose abortion at the United Nations summit on population control in Cairo in September. But with one out of every three children in the least developed

parts of Africa dying before they reach the age of 5, this is not something that will unduly worry the FN – at least as long as Europe constructs a fortress around itself to keep Africans out. What does it matter then if the Church prohibits Africans from using contraception?

And what of within Europe? The FN has proposed that French citizens should be given an extra vote for every child they have so that families with children have more say in the running of the country. Of course, this will not apply to 'immigrants'. If the FN came to power they would be repatriated. ■

Important church groups fighting racism include: Catholic Association for Racial Justice, St Vincent's Community Centre, Talma Road, London SW2 1AS; Churches Commission for Racial Justice, c/o 35/41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL. The Jubilee Group can be contacted at St Botolph's, Aldgate, EC3. The anti-fascist group, Reflexes/CRIDA, c/o 21 ter rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris, France.

Racism and population control

At the United Nations summit on population control in September, religious fundamentalists will oppose attempts to spread information on contraception. But what kind of population control do western organisations advocate? Doesn't racist thinking lie behind much of the debate on the so-called 'population problem'? International aid organisations, producing a doomsday scenario based on the myth of 'population explosion', are putting increasing pressure on Third World governments to control demography.

Anti-fertility vaccines a health risk

Over 300 organisations from 34 countries have come together to highlight the health risks caused by anti-fertility vaccines which function

by turning the immune system against body components essential for human reproduction.

At present, the 'vaccines' are in the first phase of testing. The most advanced is the anti-HCG fertility 'vaccine', which has been tested in Australia, India, Brazil, Sweden, Finland, the Dominican Republic and Chile. Phase II trials are taking place in India and Sweden. The enrolment of women in the tests has not been based on informed consent. In certain centres, no consent forms were signed; in others inadequate or contentious information was given.

Such 'vaccines' are the most recent in a long series of population control policies and technologies which have been tested on black, poor and Third World women. In the US, the pill was first tested on Puerto Rican women,

whereas in the UK black women were given Depo Provera without their consent. Instead of developing contraceptives which would enable people to exert greater control over their fertility without sacrificing their integrity and health, population control policies look for contraceptive technologies which are long acting, have a lower user failure rate, and lend themselves to mass fertility control.

The 'Call for a Stop to Research on Anti-Fertility Vaccines' has sent an open letter to the World Health Organisation. ■

More information from Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, NZ Voorburgwal 32, 1012 RZ Amsterdam, Netherlands. In the UK, European Network for Women's Rights on Abortion and Contraception, c/o National Abortion Campaign, The Print House, 18 Ashwin St, London E8 3DL.

Tory policy – prejudice before fact

The government is suppressing Home Office research, the findings of which run against the grain of racist stereotypes. Should we be surprised?

A government planning policies in the fields of immigration, refugees, policing, criminal justice and prisons might be expected to do research to inform the answers to these questions. But in July it was revealed that, on the contrary, the in-house Home Office Research Unit may be disbanded because the government does not like the findings it comes up with.

Moreover, at least eight pieces of research conducted by the Unit have not been published by the government, because they completely destroy the foundations of the policies which consistently attack black people, asylum-seekers, homeless people, single parents, dole 'cheats' and other scapegoats.

The unpublished study on refugees, for example, shows that asylum-seekers are often highly educated and highly skilled. A third of the sample had a degree or professional qualification. Most are unemployed or seriously under-employed in Britain, and a wealth of skills and expertise are being wasted. These findings contradict the strident claims of ministers, including the prime minister, over the past four years, that floods of economic adventurers disguised as refugees were entering Britain and Europe. The legacy of that lie is the Asylum Act, whose provisions criminalise all asylum-seekers and thwart genuine claims in their ruthlessly efficient search for the bogus.

Right to silence

When the government proposed to abolish the right to silence in the Criminal Justice bill now going through parliament, the same pattern was evident. No research was quoted to show the effect of abolition on the clear-up rate of crime, particularly serious crime, although extravagant claims were made that 'hardened criminals' were exploiting the right to silence to get away with murder. Independent, objective research was not commissioned, and when the campaigning group, Justice, produced its research into the effects of abolition in Northern Ireland, which showed that there was no discernible effect in

clear-up rates of crime but that abolition was creating many potential miscarriages of justice, the research was ignored.

Lies and scare stories

The way the government justified the introduction of fingerprinting in the Asylum Act illustrates the government's willingness to tell outright lies to get its policies through, and its reliance not on solid, objective research but on a couple of sensational cases. Introducing the first Bill in November 1991, then immigration minister Peter Lloyd first justified it by claiming that 'one-half of all asylum-seekers arriving at the ports now deliberately destroy their passports in order to make their claims more difficult to determine', so fingerprinting was necessary to establish identity. No evidence for this astonishing claim was ever produced.

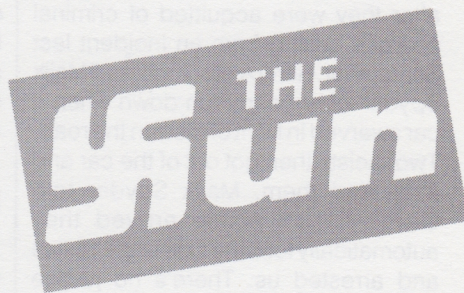
Then, it was claimed, 'many' asylum-seekers made multiple applications for DSS benefits, using false identities. One claimant had 49 identities, another 34, and a forgery kit had been found, claimed Kenneth Baker, then home secretary (later to be found guilty of contempt of court for returning an asylum-seeker to Zaire in defiance of a court order). When Charles Wardle took over as immigration minister the following year, he was asked how many asylum-seekers had been convicted of making multiple DSS claims, and admitted there had been only 11 convictions for DSS fraud by asylum-seekers. For the sake of those 11 convictions, all asylum-seekers are now fingerprinted as soon as they make their asylum claim.

Dole cheats

Sensational stories have historically been used to prepare the ground for policy changes, and popular racism can always be tapped and shaped according to government needs by the tabloid press. In the 1980s, tabloid scare stories about black 'dole cheats' were used to justify restrictions on benefit claims by 'foreigners'. Now, similar stories are appearing in the press to demand, not just reduced benefits, but the deporta-

tion of 'scrounging' and criminal asylum-seekers. Under the headline 'Beggar off you cheeky Arab', the *Daily Star* reported in July 1994 on the 'brazen' Lebanese asylum-seeker who 'gets a free home in Mayfair, gambles away his "pocket money" state benefits at the bookies, has not worked and has committed a string of offences since he fled to Britain 18 months ago.' The Home Office 'admitted asylum-seekers who fall foul of the law can NOT be deported before their refuge-bid case is heard...'

The equation of 'immigrant' with 'criminal' is as old as racism – and crime statistics are perfect as a racist tool, since they are so susceptible to massaging. The Met police in London published racialised crime statistics for the first time 12 years ago, at the height of a decade-long campaign to get more powers for the police and, in the process, to criminalise and demonise African-Caribbean youth. One of the other pieces of research which the Home Office Research Unit did recently was a contribution to a 13-country study whose conclusions suggested that white youth committed more crimes than black youth. Unsurprisingly, the research has not been published in Britain.



Whether on black crime, poverty, or bogus scrounging asylum-seekers, the government shares with the media the politics of first impression, of dishonest, lazy, racist, deliberate first impression which plants a poisonous seed in the minds of voters and readers. The correction or apology is no longer thought necessary: ministers not only see nothing wrong with cooking facts to fit their policies, but are said to complain that there are not enough Tory criminologists in Britain to lend legitimacy to their racist and reactionary penal policies. ■



CAMPAIGNS AND REPORTS

Anthony Gunter Is Innocent

Picket 10am,
29 September,
Well Street Magistrates Court
(Oxford Circus ☉)

Despite the public relations campaigns encouraging black people to join the police and senior officers demanding extra powers to deal with racist violence, police on the streets continue to mete out brutality to black people and criminalise those who defend themselves and their communities against racist attacks.

Twenty-one people were arrested in July during two nights of disturbances between police and Asians in the Eastwood area of Rotherham. The events were triggered after a gang of white youths piled out of a van and beat an Asian cab driver at a petrol station with baseball bats and smashed his car. When he ran for help and a group of local Asians came to his defence, it was they who were arrested and charged with public order offences. Eyewitnesses in the petrol station claim that Asians were singled out for arrest by the police, who made no attempt to pursue the departing racists. Over 100 Asians then marched to Main Street police station to demand the release of the six youths who had been arrested, and during the riots that followed police made a further 21 arrests.

In Nottingham, two black youths are celebrating a modest courtroom victory after they were acquitted of criminal charges arising from an incident last September. Remi Ajetunmobi and Majik Spyder were nearly run down when a car swerved in front of them in the road. Two racists then got out of the car and assaulted them. Majik Spyder told CARF: 'When police arrived they automatically took the side of the whites and arrested us. There's no justice from the police.' Though they were acquitted of most of the charges, Majik Spyder was fined £100 for criminal damage to the racists' car, even though police didn't examine it at the time.

Nottingham campaigners have now turned their attention to the case of Ronald Thomas, another victim of police racism. Ronald and his wife Sharon, who were celebrating their wedding anniversary with a visit to the local cinema, were attacked at the end of the film by three white men who hurled racial abuse at them. Ronald ended up being charged with affray and causing actual and grievous bodily

Self defence is the only way



Newham Monitoring Project organised a mass lobby of the Police Community Consultative Group in support of the Khan family

harm. None of the white men were charged with any offences, even though Ronald required hospital treatment for his injuries.

Police brutality

In north London, Camden Unity is monitoring a number of cases of alleged police racism and malpractice, of which Anthony Gunter's is one. Anthony, a young African-Caribbean, was arrested by officers from Kentish Town police station. He claims that they assaulted and racially abused him on the way to the police station and at the station, where he was charged under the Public Order Act.

Resistance

As black people come increasingly under the blow of the police truncheon (and who knows what the effect of increased police powers under the Criminal Justice Bill will be), communities are finding that their only hope of justice is through protest and resistance.

In Sheffield, the Darnall defence campaign, formed to defend Asian youths who were criminalised for defending their community against a racist gang (see CARF No 21), has succeeded in forcing an independent inquiry into the activities of officers at Attercliffe police station.

Similarly, in Newham, east London, after pressure from the Newham Monitoring Project, the appalling

treatment of the Khan family has become the subject of an inquiry by the Police Community Consultative Group. Eighteen-year-old Mujtaba Khan was arrested by police after witnessing a traffic incident outside his home. According to NMP, he was handcuffed and thrown to the ground by officers who then punched and slapped him in the van. His mother tried to defend her son and was also handcuffed and dragged to the police station, while his father was handcuffed and thrown onto the bonnet of his car. The Khans were not released until 2am the next morning. No charges have been brought against the Khans to attempt to justify their treatment. ■

Justice for Ronald Thomas campaign, PO Box 179, Nottingham NG1 3AQ, Tel: (0602) 500998. Camden Unity, c/o 58 Hampstead Road, London NW1

Defend the Rochdale Three

Three anti-fascists have been charged with public order offences following a peaceful anti-BNP demonstration outside Rochdale town hall on the night of the May local elections. Since the incident, charges have been upped to include violent disorder, which carries a possible jail sentence of five years.

One of the defendants has been refused legal aid, so donations are urgently needed to pay legal fees and produce campaign publicity. ■

Rochdale Three defence campaign, P.O. Box 110, Liverpool L69 8DP.

INQUEST

Five more deaths

The death of 22-year-old **Carl Owens** calls into question, yet again, the standard of medical care for prisoners. Carl had been in Brixton on remand for only two days when he was found collapsed in his cell on 30 May this year. His death was a result of an overdose of methadone and tranquillisers – both of which were prescribed by the prison medical service. According to Carl's family he was being held in the prison's segregation unit, where there would be no medical supervision or observation.

Mark Harris, a 31-year-old from Tiger Bay, Cardiff was found dead in Trinity Road police station in St Pauls, Bristol on 10 July. He was found hanging in a cell by his belt. Mark's family and friends, who are deeply suspicious about the circumstances of his arrest and subsequent death, have set up a local campaign.

Oluwafeyisola Akinbobola was 24 years old when, on 26 June, he was found hanging in his prison cell. He had been remanded for less than two weeks at Woodhill prison, Buckinghamshire. According to his brother he had gone on hunger strike to highlight the injustice of his situation and, as a final protest, had taken his own life. His brother feels that, given the hunger strike and the fact that Oluwafeyisola suffered from depression,

his suicide should have been prevented either by placing him in hospital or putting him on special watch.

Kirk Chean was 29 years old when he was found hanging in his cell at Brixton prison on 28 June. His family are concerned that on the day of his death he had been moved from the hospital wing to the normal wing, despite having made a previous suicide attempt.

Yet another young man has died in hospital. **Rupert Marshall** was 29 when he died on 30 January 1994 in Horton psychiatric hospital, Epsom, after being restrained and injected with an anti-psychotic drug.

These deaths came to Inquest's attention because of the concern of family, friends and community groups. The grief of families is exacerbated by the secrecy surrounding these deaths and the lack of rights for families after a death in custody. Prison and police enquiries are carried out in secret and are never made public. And, without legal representation for families, the inquest becomes little more than a rubber stamp of the authorities' version of events.

...and another law for state officials

On 27 June 1993 an inquest jury unanimously decided that Zairean asylum-seeker Omasase Lumumba had been unlawfully killed by prison officers using excessive force. No officer has faced charges as a result of this verdict.

Joy Gardner's death came days after this verdict. Demands for a public inquiry into these deaths and into the

wider powers of the Immigration Act have been consistently rejected by the government. As Joy Gardner's mother said: 'Why is it that only certain people are able to get justice? We are fighting to get justice for Joy and every other black person who becomes a victim of the police and whose case is swept under the carpet.'

Recent decisions exonerating policemen of conspiracy and perverting the course of justice only serve to reinforce the fact that there is one kind of justice for the general public and one for state officials. ■

Inquest, 330 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2PG.

Kurdish rights

On 20 September, the trial of the Berlin 5 (see *CARF* No 19), five Kurdish men and women charged with the murder of Gerhard Kaindl, a leading member of the neo-nazi Deutsche Liga, begins in Germany. The 'Friends and Supporters of the Berlin 5' are asking for as much international support as possible – solidarity actions in front of German embassies, consulates, chambers of commerce or Lufthansa offices.

Meanwhile, on 25 June, hundreds of Kurds from Austria, France and Britain were prevented from participating in a 100,000 strong Kurdish demonstration in Frankfurt. Coaches of demonstrators were stopped at the border and denied entry to Germany on the grounds that the protesters were suspected terrorists.

Two British coaches were searched and photographed. A Kurdish lawyer, who had refugee status in Germany and was travelling on an international travel document, was refused permission to enter his adopted homeland, as were around 100 other Kurds who had paid for visas to enter Germany.

As passport checks within the EU were relaxed in January this year, the protesters wondered why they were stopped and how the police knew which coaches from Britain to investigate. Could it be anything to do with a telephone call to the coach operator the previous day? The Kent constabulary had been making enquiries as to whether transport to Frankfurt was booked, as they had an urgent message for a passenger with a sick relative. ■

Joy Gardner's mother, Myrna Simpson (centre) laid wreaths outside the Home Office and Joy's home in north London on 28 July, a year after her death at the hands of police and immigration officials.



Sharon Wallace

Campsfield update

A recently arrived inmate in Campsfield immigration detention centre, 29-year-old Josephine Ajuebor, has been held in detention for almost a year awaiting deportation, because her marriage ran into difficulties. Josephine, a Nigerian, was refused permission to stay in Britain in December 1990 after her husband told the Home Office that the couple had separated. They got back together again in February 1992, but the Home Office juggernaut was rolling by then and a deportation order was signed against Josephine in November 1992.

In September 1993, she was arrested. She has been detained at Gatwick, at Harmondsworth detention centre, in Holloway prison and now in Campsfield. Her two young children become very distressed whenever they visit her, and Josephine herself has threatened to kill herself. To add insult to injury, the Home Office cite her suicide threats as justification not to release her.

Elizabeth Blanchard

In *CARF* No 21, we reported on the ordeal of psychiatrically disturbed Elizabeth Blanchard, who was gagged and handcuffed while being removed from Campsfield and ended up unconscious at the Whittington hospital in north London after spending a day banging her head against a cell wall in Banbury police station. Despite agreeing to an investigation into her treatment, the Home Office proposed to detain her in Holloway as soon as she was well enough to be discharged from hospital, and she spent the last night before her discharge surrounded by nurses to ensure that she did not carry out a threatened suicide attempt. After protests by her solicitors, Elizabeth was freed on temporary admission when she left hospital in early July. But her freedom is very precarious: she has to report every few days to the immigration authorities. There are plans to sue the Home Office and the police for negligence, false imprisonment and trespass to the person.

The campaign to close Campsfield holds regular pickets outside the detention centre on the last Saturday of each month. ■

Campaign to close Campsfield
c/o 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford.
Tel: (0865) 724452/722357.
Campaign against Immigration Act Detentions,
Tel: (071) 254 9701.

Stop deportations

Helen Aladesanwe

Helen, a Nigerian woman living in Manchester, is being threatened with deportation. She came to Britain in 1988 as a visitor but later became pregnant and stayed on. She now has three children, all of whom were born here. Helen's five-year-old son Steven suffers from sickle cell anaemia, an incurable blood disease, and needs emergency transfusions when he has a sickle cell crisis.

In January, the Home Secretary signed Helen's deportation order in the full knowledge that Steven will not be able to obtain the treatment and medical care he needs in Nigeria. The Home Office is now reviewing this decision after pressure from her MP, but Helen's supporters are still urging people to write letters of support to the Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT (quote reference A431375) and to join the demonstration on Saturday 17 September. Assemble at 12 noon, Clayton Brook Primary School, Saunton Road, Openshaw. ■

Helen Aladesanwe defence campaign, c/o North Manchester Law Centre, Paget Street, Manchester M10 7UX. Tel: (061) 205 9031.

Hemlata Patel

Hemlata Patel came to England in 1986, having met her future husband while he was on holiday in India.

Initially, the marriage was a happy one, but her husband soon became violent. After ten months, Hema, desperately in need of support, went to the police, who told her to leave her husband. She now faces deportation because of the racist thinking of the Home Office which imposes a one-year probationary period on marriages such as Hema's on the assumption that they are all marriages for immigration purposes.

Hema is now happily divorced and has rebuilt her life. 'It will be very difficult for me in India as a single divorced woman. They will think less of me. They always blame the woman,' she told *CARF*. ■

No justice for Oliver Campbell

Oliver Campbell, the mentally disabled 23-year-old whose conviction for murder in 1991 was based on evidence of a confession made without a solicitor present, has had his bid for freedom refused by the Court of Appeal.

Kevin Blowe, of the Justice for Oliver Campbell Campaign, told *CARF*: 'This decision is a travesty of justice. When it comes to black people the courts are not interested in the truth. Oliver is an innocent man and we will fight on to secure his release.' ■

Justice for Oliver Campbell campaign, PO Box 273, London E7. Tel: (081) 552 6284.

Demonstrate for Hemlata's right to stay

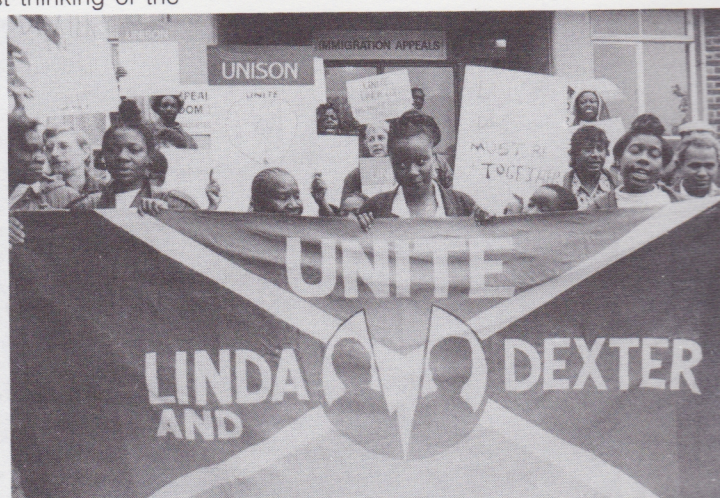
10am 9 September
Immigration Adjudicator,
Government Buildings, Clay Lane,
Yardley, Birmingham.

For more details ring
West Midlands anti-deportation campaign
(021) 551 4518.

Colly Wilson appeal

After waiting 14 months for a decision, Colly Wilson has finally been granted leave to appeal against his conviction. Colly, a black man from Nottingham, was convicted of a robbery in which the victim described his attackers as white. He also suffers from a paranoid personality disorder making him liable to give false confessions. ■

You can write to Colly Wilson, JJ3012, HMP Gartree, Leicester Road, Market Harborough, Leics LE16 7RP.



The West Midlands anti-deportation campaign held a demonstration outside the immigration appeal hearing of Dexter Sewell. Dexter has been refused entry from Jamaica on the grounds that his wife Linda, a local government employee, does not earn enough to support them both.

Mark Salmon

SNAP... SNAP... SNAP

SNAP South Newham
Action on Policing
PO BOX 6382, LONDON E13

**TROUBLE
WITH THE
POLICE?
YOU HAVE RIGHTS...
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SNAPLINE

South Newham Action on Policing (SNAP) was formed in November last year in the aftermath of the Justice for the Dray Family Campaign, which successfully campaigned against the prosecution of Tony and Lee Dray for assault on police officers. The group exists to promote legal rights for people living in south Newham, particularly young people, and to assist those who feel that these rights have been denied. Its stated aims are to 'ensure that abuses of police power are properly dealt with, and where inadequacies exist in the way that complaints are dealt with, to campaign for change'. What makes SNAP a unique organisation is that it draws its support from within the white working class communities in Canning Town, east London - and that exists because of the support of the anti-racist campaigning group, Newham Monitoring Project.

The estates in south Canning Town have been largely neglected for the last decade. Very few resources have been allocated to the area by the council, and the complacency of the Labour Party is now reflected in the

support given by residents to the British National Party, which took 33% of the vote in the Beckton ward in the May local elections. Despite the efforts of the few funded groups in the area, the last time there was regular community advice in Canning Town was in the 1970's - and that was run by the National Front! There is little belief among local people that they can influence the political process, and it is this sense of 'disenfranchisement' which makes the position of predominantly white working class communities remarkably similar to that of black communities 15 years ago. While black people have been pushed into fighting for a voice, however, large parts of the south of Newham have stood still politically, providing fertile breeding ground for the BNP to exploit the racist ideas which reflect the economic decline of the area.

It is in this context that SNAP stands out in Canning Town. Its driving force remains the Dray family, who originally contacted NMP following the arrest of Lee and Tony because there was no-one else who would help. The process of running the campaign for the Drays, whose legal representatives and many of whose supporters were black, had an impact in challenging the prejudices of many local people, most of whom had never been involved in any campaigning work before. SNAP was formed to continue to oppose police harassment of all sections of the community, which remains a live issue in south Newham, and local people are drawing upon the history of the struggles of Newham's black communities, through the passing on of the skills and experiences of anti-racists involved in NMP, to ensure the group's success. Already, SNAP has organised monthly legal advice sessions in the heart of Canning Town.

In terms of making inroads into the lack of police accountability and of community political activity, the formation of South Newham Action on Policing is still only a small step forward. Canning Town and other parts of the south of the borough have a lot of catching up to do. However, seeing how close the BNP came to taking a council seat in Canning Town in May, it is clear that there is an urgent need for alternative, progressive politics in the area. The only alternative is to abandon south Newham, including its increasingly besieged black communities, to the tender mercies of the far Right. ■



Lee Dray after his 'arrest'

Making black history Surinder Bassi (1950-1994)



Mark Salmon

Surinder Bassi was assured of her place in the history of black workers' struggle when she died on 11 July. After coming to England from the Punjab in 1968 she worked as a textile worker in Bradford and a fruit and vegetable packer. But it was on moving to Smethwick, and finding dirty, gruelling work in Burnsalls metal-finishing factory, that she became known as a fighter against exploitation and injustice. Along with 18 other workers, almost all of them Asian women, Surinder was on strike for over a year at Burnsalls, demanding an end to forced overtime, better health and safety conditions, the right to join a union and equal pay for women.

Surinder's courage and determination meant that she became one of the main spokespeople for the strikers and she travelled the country speaking to trade unionists and supporters to build solidarity for the struggle at Burnsalls. The strike was lost after official support was withdrawn by the GMB union, but the spirit of struggle that Surinder embodied is one that the trade union movement would do well to continue. ■

A memorial meeting will take place at 6.30pm on 20 September at Conway Hall, London WC1. Speakers will include Arthur Scargill and Surinder's daughter. For details of memorial activities in Birmingham ring Birmingham Asian Resource Centre (021) 523 0580.

BNP prioritises east London

The BNP is continuing its campaign in east London by standing Gordon Callow in the by-election at Shadwell, Tower Hamlets on 15 September. In Newham, the BNP has issued a leaflet promising to 'develop its presence' in the borough so that it becomes 'the main opposition party

between now and the next general election'. *Newham Patriot* also offers a reward of £1000 for information on the attack on BNP candidate Michael Davidson (see *CARF* No 20). The BNP's annual rally will take place on either 5 or 12 November, according to the August issue of *Spearhead*. ■

JUN 22 Harold Carr, beaten by police during questioning about non-payment of his TV licence, is convicted of affray and is ordered to do 200 hours community service and pay £150 costs... Figures from Manchester police show that reported racist attacks have risen by 43 per cent in the last year... Police increase patrols after spate of racist attacks in Elstree, Hertfordshire **JUN 23** Survey of housing needs in Birmingham finds that Asians want more security measures around their homes after an increase in racist attacks... Martin Cramner, 22, is imprisoned after a racist attack in Essex in which the victim's nose was broken **JUN 24** Police figures show that the number of people stopped and searched last year rose by 23 per cent to 442,800 **JUN 25** National Union of Teachers holds day of action to protest against cuts in Section 11 funding **JUN 26** Nine months after being beaten unconscious by racists in east London, Qudus Ali returns home from hospital **JUN 27** British Rail worker who suffered racist abuse and taunts from his supervisor, including being called an ape, is awarded £2,000 compensation **JUN 29** CRE annual report says there are 365 racist attacks every day – a 20 per cent increase on last year **JUN 30** Hindu saleswoman sacked from Harrods for wearing a nose ring wins right to take case to industrial tribunal **JUL 1** Asian family in Bexleyheath, south-east London, go into hiding after their home is wrecked in racist attack... Hotel waitress from Blackpool wins £9,000 in out of court settlement after enduring months of racist abuse from half of the hotel's 20 staff **JUL 3** Police figures reveal that racist attacks occurred every day last year in Tower Hamlets... Army hires firm of consultants to recruit ethnic minorities and begins 'ethnic sensitivity training' for senior officers **JUL 4** Home secretary Michael Howard announces quicker, cheaper procedures for settling race discrimination cases out of court **JUL 9** Accusations of police heavy-handedness against Asians spark disturbances in Bradford **JUL 10** Sunday Mirror investigation claims that 31 supporters of the 'Friends of Oswald Mosley' are working in Britain's jails **JUL 12** Oldham Council is ordered to pay £1,500 compensation to employee Ray Dixon after being found guilty of racial discrimination... Fewer women and ethnic minorities have been applying to join the police force because of racism and sexism, says Chief Inspector of Constabulary **JUL 13** Government plans to repeal the Caravan Sites Act, which requires local authorities to provide caravan sites for Gypsies, are defeated in the House of Lords... CRE announces plans to investigate the Ministry of Defence for racial discrimination after Army board of inquiry finds that a black soldier was discriminated against... Home office announces that five prisons will be used to create 500 extra spaces for the detention of asylum-seekers... Industrial tribunal awards £16,820 compensation to black mechanic who suffered years of racist abuse from his white workmates **JUL 14** Amnesty International calls for independent inquiry into 'cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment' during the forcible removal of asylum-seekers from the UK... Asian police officer in Southport is left semi-conscious after attack by three racist thugs **JUL 15** London Research Centre survey reveals massive discrimination in employment and housing against London's ethnic minorities **JUL 18** Nottingham Race Equality

1994

CALENDAR OF RACE AND RESISTANCE

Council reports that children as young as five are victims of racist bullying in schools **JUL 19** Black children have higher rates of long-term illness than any other ethnic group in London, according to new report based on 1991 census information... Labour and Lib-Dem councillors in Bexley begin a fresh attempt to evict British National Party from its headquarters in Welling **JUL 20** Computer engineer tells industrial tribunal how a racist colleague sprayed him with deodorant 'because he smelt of curry' **JUL 21** Lewisham council and local police are slammed in local report accusing them of failing to tackle racial harassment and BNP activity on Silwood Estate in south London **JUL 23** Jamaican-born Alfred Williams of Stockport is awarded £4,504 compensation by industrial tribunal for racial discrimination after being questioned about his nationality during a job interview **JUL 25** Winston Silcott wins right to judicial review of his conviction for the murder of Anthony Smith... Metropolitan police pay £33,500 compensation to a Nigerian family living in south London but deny claims of assault and battery and false imprisonment **JUL 26** Police officers Graham Melvin and Maxwell Dingle are cleared of fabricating evidence against Winston Silcott, who was falsely convicted of the murder of PC Blakelock... Patricia Cartwright, detained for 14 months while British and Jamaican officials argue over her nationality, loses bid for her release and is told she will be deported **JUL 27** CPS announces that only two of the 46 officers accused of corruption at Stoke Newington police station are to be prosecuted **JUL 28** Family and friends of Joy Gardner lay wreath at her home in Hornsey, north London, one year after her death at the hands of police and immigration officials... Metropolitan police pay £7,500 in out-of-court settlement to student Foziat Ali who was assaulted and falsely imprisoned by police officers in Camden **JUL 29** Masked gang spray aerosol gas into faces of Asian family in their Leicester home **JUL 30** Marcell Mullins, 28, is awarded £21,500 in damages ten years after police planted drugs on him **JUL 31** BNP members are stopped from selling their newspapers by local residents during carnival in Maidstone, Kent **AUG 1** All-party committee of peers calls for toughening of immigration controls at the borders of the EU... Report says that children as young as 7 are to blame for racist attacks in Burley, Leeds **AUG 2** EU proposes to compile computerised list of 'undesirable immigrants' which will contain names of people refused entry by any member state... Judge criticises immigration authorities over their handling of the detention and attempted deportation of Major Singh of East Kilbride, a restaurant worker who first came to the UK 30 years ago **AUG 3** Employment Appeals Tribunal rules that chair of industrial tribunal showed bias and acted improperly while hearing a race discrimination case... Fascist 'White Wolves' issue death threats to anti-racists, including a councillor and headteacher in Wales **AUG 4** Asian woman, Mrs Uppal, is arrested by police and charged with assault after being attacked with a baseball bat on Heston Farm Estate in west London **AUG 9** Hartlepool teenager Michael Gales is sentenced to seven years' custody after attacking elderly Asian man **AUG 11** Black police officers form independent association to promote debate on recruitment and treatment of ethnic minorities in the force.

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